

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." – Matt. 6:14

What Forgiveness is and is not

What Forgiveness IS...

- Cancellation of debt
 - "Forgive us our debts..." (Matt. 6:12)
 - "Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt." (Matt. 18:27)
- A command
 - "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you..." (Lk. 6:27)
 - "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do." (Col. 3:12-13)



What Forgiveness IS...

- Conditional
 - “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matt. 6:14-15)
 - “And forgive us our debts, AS we forgive our debtors.” (Matt. 6:12)



What Forgiveness IS...

- Necessary for Christian unity and oneness
 - **"...that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us,** that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one..."** (Jn. 17:21-23)
 - "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him." (Jn. 6:56)
- A choice
 - "For IF you forgive men their trespasses..." (Jn. 6:14)



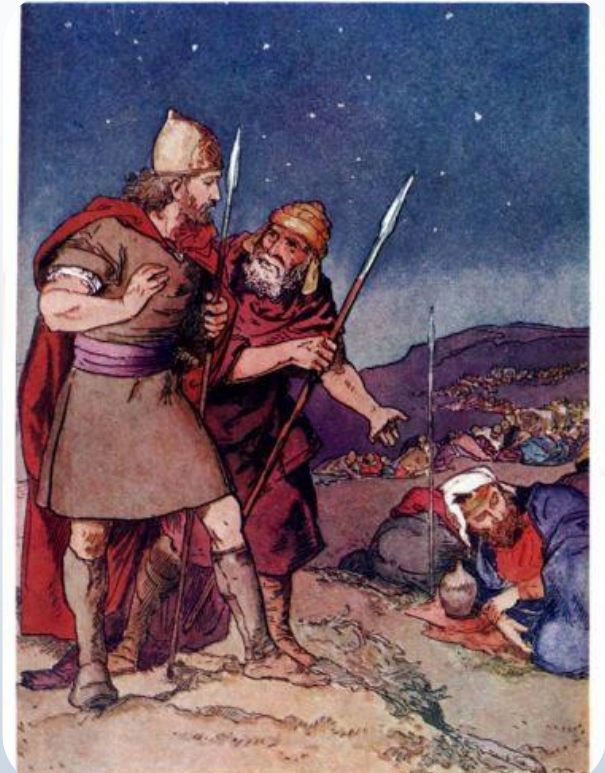
What Forgiveness is NOT...

- A favor we offer others
- **Reconciliation**
 - Forgiveness is not reconciliation, but forgiveness is necessary for reconciliation



What Forgiveness is NOT...

- **Letting someone off the hook**
 - Forgiveness does not remove the burden of accountability
 - Ex: Onesimus
- **Trust**
 - "So David swore to Saul. And Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold." (1 Sam. 24:22)
- **Amnesia**
 - "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, **from his heart**, does not forgive his brother his trespasses." (Matt.18:35)
- **Healing**



How to practice forgiveness?

- Forgive the little things
- Put the Lord Christ between me and “my enemy”
- Plead for forgiveness
- Look for the positive in others